

Jeremiah 15:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Analysis

Jeremiah's anguish deepens: 'Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?' The questions express profound suffering: perpetual pain, incurable wounds, refusal of healing. The bold accusation—will God be 'as a liar, and as waters that fail'—protests apparent unfulfillment of God's promises of protection. This represents the darkest point of Jeremiah's complaint, where circumstances seem to contradict God's character. The 'waters that fail' metaphor describes wadis (intermittent streams) that dry up when most needed. Jeremiah feels God has proven unreliable like a seasonal stream.

Historical Context

Throughout his ministry, Jeremiah suffered persecution while his prophecies seemed slow to fulfill. This created crisis of faith: was God truly faithful? Would protection promised actually come?

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do we understand the propriety of such bold complaints to God in Scripture?
2. What does the 'failing waters' metaphor teach about disappointment with God during suffering?
3. How should believers process times when God's promises seem unfulfilled?

Interlinear Text

וְנַתַּתִּי יְךָ	לְפָנֶיךָ	לְחוֹמַת הַיָּה	נְחֹשֶׁת	בְּצוּר הַיָּה	
And I will make	thee unto this people	H2088	wall	brasen	a fenced
H5414	H5971		H2346	H5178	H1219
וְנִלְחֲמוּ וְ	אֵלַי יְךָ	יִוְכְּלוּ	לֹא יִנְצְחוּ		לֹא יִנְצְחוּ
and they shall fight	H413	H3808	against thee but they shall not prevail		H0
H3898			H3201		
כִּי	אֶתְּךָ	אֲנִי	לְהוֹשִׁיעֶיךָ	וּלְהַצִּילְךָ	
H3588	H854	H589	against thee for I am with thee to save	thee and to deliver	
			H3467	H5337	
נֹאמְרִי	יְהוָה:				
thee saith	the LORD				
H5002	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 3:9 (Parallel theme): As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 46:11 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psalms 46:7 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Jeremiah 1:8 (References Lord): Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 6:27 (Parallel theme): I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way.

2 Timothy 4:22 (References Lord): The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.